

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A ball joint comprising:

a housing with an opening portion;

a ball head portion rotatably housed in said housing;

a ball stud comprising:

a stud portion provided in a protruding manner from said ball head portion, and protruding from said opening portion; and

a brim portion provided in a protruding manner on an outside surface of said stud portion, the brim portion having an end face and an outer circumferential surface; and

an elastic dust cover fitted around said stud portion, provided flatly across an outside surface of said housing and a position along an outside surface of said stud portion that is closer to the brim portion than the ball head portion so as to block said opening portion, said dust cover comprising:

a first lip portion protruding from an outer circumferential surface of said elastic dust cover that faces the ball head portion-side end face of said brim portion, and wherein the tip is closely fitted in a manner urged toward ~~a ball head portion-side~~ said end face ~~of said brim portion;~~ and

a second lip portion which is tilted gradually and which protrudes from an outer circumferential surface of said elastic dust cover that faces the ball head portion-side end face of said brim portion, and which protrudes further outward than said first lip portion, and wherein the tip is closely fitted in a manner urged toward an outside surface of said brim portion.

2. (Previously presented) The ball joint as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said first lip portion is urged toward a ball head portion-side end face of said brim portion, and closely fitted to a part of said end face.

3. (Previously presented) The ball joint as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said second lip portion is urged toward an outside surface of the brim portion, and closely fitted to a part of said outside surface.

4. (Previously presented) The ball joint as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said dust cover is provided with a pocket portion between said first lip portion, said second lip portion and said brim portion of said ball stud, retaining a lubricant member inside.

5. (Previously presented) The ball joint as set forth in Claim 2, wherein said second lip portion is urged toward an outside surface of the brim portion, and closely fitted to a part of said outside surface.

6. (Previously presented) The ball joint as set forth in Claim 2, wherein said dust cover is provided with a pocket portion between said first lip portion, said second lip portion and said brim portion of said ball stud, retaining a lubricant member inside.

7. (Previously presented) The ball joint as set forth in Claim 3, wherein said dust cover is provided with a pocket portion between said first lip portion, said second lip portion and said brim portion of said ball stud, retaining a lubricant member inside.

8. (Previously presented) The ball joint as set forth in Claim 5, wherein said dust cover is provided with a pocket portion between said first lip portion, said second lip portion and said brim portion of said ball stud, retaining a lubricant member inside.

9. (Previously presented) The ball joint as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the opening portion is located on one end of the housing, and the opposite end of the housing is closed by a plug caulked to the housing.